

ULTRA-CLEAN FLUOROPOLYMERS

5 This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial Number
09/495,600, filed February 1, 2000, now ^{US Patent 6,720,360} allowed, the
disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference.

Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to ultra-clean
fluoropolymers, especially thermoplastic and elastomeric
fluoropolymers, compositions incorporating such
fluoropolymers, articles employing such fluoropolymers and
methods of making and using such fluoropolymers.

15 **Background**

High purity fluoropolymers are used in a number of
industries. They are especially preferred for use in the
electronic, semiconductor, optical, medical and
20 pharmaceutical industries to name a few. These polymers
have a relatively low level of extractable metals and metal
compounds.

High purity fluoroelastomer compositions are known. See
EP-B-0 708 797 which discloses an elastomer composition

25 comprising

- (A) a peroxide-curable elastomeric fluoropolymer,
- (B) an organic acid acceptor,
- (C) an organic peroxide,
- (D) a coagent for the organic peroxide, and
- 30 (E) a fluoropolymer micropowder filler.

This composition is said to be free from carbon fillers and
have less than 500 ppb of extractable metals and metal
compounds. This low content of metals and metal compounds is
achieved by selecting metal-free acid acceptors, coagents